



PATENT APPLICATION  
Q-78288

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Heinz FOCKE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/700,059

Group Art Unit: 2855

Confirmation No.: 3090

Examiner: Max H. NOORI

Filed: November 04, 2003

For: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR CHECKING ROD-LIKE ARTICLES, IN PARTICULAR CIGARETTES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing

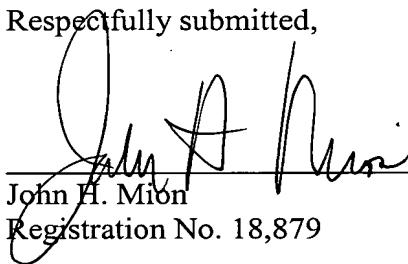
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/700,059

concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a counterpart Chinese Office Action citing such documents, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the Chinese Patent Office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John H. Mion  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
23373  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 12, 2005



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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(e)**

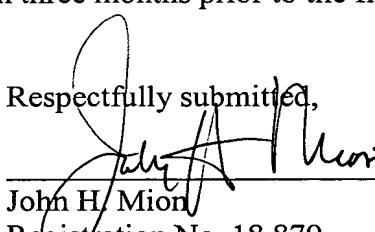
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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<p>Substitute for form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO</p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>		<p>Complete if Known</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td>NOT YET KNOWN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Confirmation Number</td> <td>NOT YET KNOWN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>November 4, 2003</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Heinz FOCKE et al</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>NOT YET KNOWN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>NOT YET KNOWN</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Attorney Docket Number</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	NOT YET KNOWN	Confirmation Number	NOT YET KNOWN	Filing Date	November 4, 2003	First Named Inventor	Heinz FOCKE et al	Art Unit	NOT YET KNOWN	Examiner Name	NOT YET KNOWN	Attorney Docket Number	
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Sheet	1	of	1														

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

#### OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is indicate here if English language Translation is attached.